

Remarks & Arguments

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that Claims 1-11 and 13-21 are pending in the application, and that Claims 1-11 and 13-21 are rejected. By this amendment, Claims 1, 4-8, 11, 13-15 and 18-21 have been amended, Claims 2-3 and 9-10 have been canceled without prejudice, and Claim 22 has been added. Thus, Claims 1, 4-8, 11 and 13-22 are pending in the application. The amendments to the claims do not add new matter to the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

Rejection Under 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The amendment of Claim 7 and cancellation of Claim 9 render the rejections moot.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102 and 103

Claims 1, 4, and 14-18 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Schindler (US Patent No. 5,675,390). The rejection alleges that Schindler shows a system for remotely controlling an AV device within a PC where the button on the remote control are mapped to predetermined key codes and upon receiving a signal from a remote control the signal is translated to control the operations of AV device coupled to the PC. Applicants respectfully assert that Schindler discloses "the keys on the remote are automatically mapped into the program selected", Col. 18 lines 33-34, and that "programs, as used herein refer to computer

application programs and television programs”, Col. 15. lines 50-51. Those skilled in the art understand application programs to mean any data entry, update, query or report program that processes data for the user (e.g., spreadsheets, word processors, database programs). See The Computer Desktop Encyclopedia, Second Edition, Alan Freedman, 1999) Accordingly, Schindler does not disclose that the keys on the remote are automatically mapped for controlling A/V devices (e.g., TV receiver, DVD player, DVR and CD player) of the invention in Claims 1, 4 and 14-18.

Applicants also respectfully contend that Schindler teaches away from the invention in Claims 1, 4 and 14-18. Schindler, at Col. 18, lines 32-33, teaches “when the cursor is used to select a program, it [the cursor] becomes the primary controller for the program”. Furthermore, Schindler, at Col. 18, lines 30-32, teaches “... each remote control controls a different cursor ...”. Schindler also requires the use of a graphical user interface, Figure 13 and Col. 17 lines 56 through Col. 18, line 56. In addition, Schindler teaches that the remote and the keys thereon are statically associated with applications, Col. 15 lines 13-65.

Applicants also respectfully assert that, with regard to Claim 1, Schindler does not teach or suggest a look-up table having a plurality of mappings between each of the data signals and an appropriate function for each of the A/V devices. With regard to Claims 14, 18, 19, 20 and 21, Schindler does not teach or suggest a mapping wherein a first set of buttons select operation of one or more A/V devices and a second set of buttons control operation as a function of the selected A/V device. With regard to Claim 18, Schindler does not teach or suggest: receiving a

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first data signal corresponding to a selected one of the first set of buttons; translating the first data signal to a first control function utilizing the look-up table to select operation of a particular A/V device coupled to a PC; receiving a second data signal corresponding to a selected one of the second set of buttons; and translating the second data signal to a second control function utilizing the look-up table to control operation of the particular A/V device coupled to the PC, wherein the selected one of the second set of buttons is automatically associated with an appropriate control function for the particular A/V device. With regard to Claim 19, Schindler does not teach or suggest a graphics board for automatically translating the data signals to appropriate control functions for selecting and controlling operation of the plurality of A/V devices utilizing a look-up table. With regard to Claim 21, Schindler does not teach or suggest a graphics board including a button mapping software for automatically translating the data signals to appropriate control functions and a software driver for providing information for controlling the plurality of A/V device according to the appropriate control function.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 4 and 14-18 are patentable over Schindler. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-8, 11, 13 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Schindler and Bauersachs (US Patent Application 2004/0025189). Applicants however respectfully assert, with regard to Claim 5, that neither Schindler nor Bauersachs teach or suggest a connection hardware for translating data signals to appropriate control functions, wherein the selectable buttons of a single remote are automatically associated with the appropriate control

functions for a particular A/V device. With regard to Claim 13, neither Schindler nor Bauersachs teach or suggest determining automatically a control function for a particular A/V device associated with the data signal based on the activated at least one of the plurality of buttons and the particular A/V device. With regard to Claim 19, neither Schindler nor Bauersachs teach or suggest a graphics board for automatically translating the data signals to appropriate control functions for selecting and controlling operation of the plurality of A/V devices utilizing a look-up table. With regard to Claim 21, neither Schindler nor Bauersachs teach or suggest a graphics board including a button mapping software for automatically translating the data signals to appropriate control functions and a software driver for providing information for controlling the plurality of A/V device according to the appropriate control function. With regard to Claims 19, 20 and 21, neither Schindler nor Bauersachs teach or suggest a mapping wherein a first set of buttons select operation of one or more A/V devices and a second set of buttons control operation as a function of the selected A/V device.

In addition, Applicants respectfully contend that Schindler teaches away from the invention in Claims 5-8, 11, 13 and 19-21. Schindler, at Col. 18, lines 32-33, teaches “when the cursor is used to select a program, it [the cursor] becomes the primary controller for the program”. Furthermore, Schindler, at Col. 18, lines 30-32, teaches “... each remote control controls a different cursor ...”. Schindler also requires the use of a graphical user interface, Figure 13 and Col. 17 lines 56 through Col. 18, line 56. In addition, Schindler teaches that the remote and the keys thereon are statically associated with applications, Col. 15 lines 13-65.

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Accordingly, Claims 5-8, 11, 13 and 19-21 are patentable over Schindler, Bauersachs and the combination thereof. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

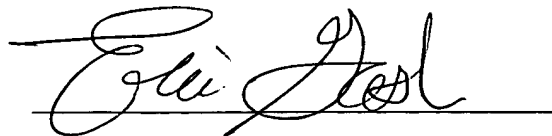
Conclusion

For all the reasons advanced above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and that action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 23-0085. In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Gash", is written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: